

Message Text

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ACTION EA-14

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-07 H-03 INR-10 L-03

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P R 070245Z JAN 74

FM AMEMBASSY SAIGON

TO SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 0530

INFO USDEL JEC PARIS

AMCONSUL BIEN HOA

AMCONSUL DANANG

AMCONSUL NHA TRANG

CINCPAC

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E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: MARR, PINT, VS

SUBJECT: MR-4 ANNIVERSARY CELEBRATION

CINCPAC FOR POLAD

FOLLOWING TL RECEIVED JAN 6, 1974 FROM AMCONSUL CAN THO
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E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: MARR, PINT, VS

SUBJECT: MR 4 ANNIVERSARY CELEBRATION

SUMMARY. PRESIDENT THIEU, PRESIDING JANUARY 4 OVER MR4'S ELEVENTH
ANNIVERSARY CELEBRATION IN CAN THO, PUT THE BLAME FOR CONTINUED WAR
IN THE SOUTH SQUARELY ON THE SHOULDERS OF THE NORTH VIETNAMESE. HE
CALLED FOR RETALIATORY MEASURES AGAINST THE NORTHERN INVADERS THAT
INCLUDED PRE-EMTIVE ATTACKS ON THEIR BASE AREAS. FLANKED BY MR4
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COMMANDER MG NGUYEN VINH NGHI, THE PRESIDENT ALSO REVIEWED A MILITARY

SHOW OF IMPRESSIVE PROPORTIONS. MG NGHI IN HIS OWN REMARKS ADOPTED A LINE EQUALLY AS HARD AS THE PRESIDENT'S. END SUMMARY.

1. MR4 CELEBRATED ITS ELEVENTH ANNIVERSARY JANUARY 4 BY STAGING FOR THE BENEFIT OF PRESIDENT THIEU AND OTHER ASSORTED DIGNITARIES A MILITARY SHOW IMPRESSIVE BOTH IN CONCEPTION AND EXECUTION. THE DEMONSTRATION INCLUDED A ROLL-BY OF MILITARY EQUIPMENT (INCLUDING 36 APCs, ARTILLERY, ANTI-TANK WEAPONS, AND HEAVY ENGINEERING AND COMMUNICATIONS EQUIPMENT); A PARADE COMPRISING CONTINGENTS FROM THE THREE DELTA ARVN DIVISION, RF, PF, PSDF, POLICE, RD CADRE, NAVY-- TOTALLING OVER 5000 PERSONNEL; AND THE DISTRIBUTION OF NUMEROUS MEDALS AND AWARDS TO UNITS AND SOLDIERS OF ALL RANKS. (A VNAF FLY-BY WAS OMITTED BECAUSE OF THE FUEL SHORTAGE.) THE THREE HOUR SHOW, WHICH ALSO INCLUDED A NOT-SOON-TO-BE-FORGOTTEN FEMALE GYMNASTIC DISPLAY AND ENDED WITH A BICYCLE RACE TO SOC TRANG, WAS THE PRODUCT OF WEEKS OF PLANNING AND DAYS OF PRACTICE.

2. DIGNITARIES IN ATTENDANCE INCLUDED PRIME MINISTER KHIEM, LTG LE NGUYEN KHANG; INFORMATION COMMISSAR HOANG DUC NHA; THE CHIEF OF THE JGS; THE PRESIDENTS OF THE SENATE, LOWER HOUSE, AND SUPREME COURT; CIVIL SERVICE COMMISSAR COL QUACH HUYNH HA; SENATOR TON THAT DINH; AND DEPUTY TRAN VAN DON AS WELL AS A NUMBER OF OTHER SENATORS AND LOWER HOUSE DEPUTES. ALSO PRESENT WERE A NUMBER OF MILITARY ATTACHES FROM FOREIGN EMBASSIES IN SAIGON.

3. ONLY MG NGHI AND THE PRESIDENT SPOKE. NGHI, READING A PREPARED TEXT, MOSTLY REVIEWED MR 4 ACCOMPLISHMENTS AND COMMUNIST FAILURES, AND EXHORTED THE PEOPLE OF THE DELTA TO DO EVEN BETTER IN THE FUTURE. HE COMMENTED ON THE CURRENT SITUATION BY BLAMING COMMUNIST CEASEFIRE VIOLATIONS FOR THE INCREASE IN MILITARY VIOLENCE AND DECLARING THAT QUOTE WE MUST ATTACK THE ENEMY'S FIGHTING POTENTIAL BEFORE HE CAN LAUNCH ATTACKS AGAINST US. UNQUOTE. NGHI ANNOUNCED PUBLICLY THE MR4 STRESS ON MOBILITY OF TERRITORIAL FORCES. HE ALSO SUMMARIZED ECONOMIC PROGRESS MADE IN THE DELTA ESPECIALLY IN AGRICULTURE.

4. PRESIDENT THIEU SPOKE ANIMATEDLY AND WITHOUT NOTES. (TEXT WAS TRANSCRIBED AND SHOULD BE IN OUR HANDS JANUARY 7.) THE PRESIDENT DECLARED THAT THE WAR IN THE RVN IS CARRIED ON WITH THE FULL SUPPORT OF THE NORTH VIETNAMESE COMMUNISTS AND THAT, AS LONG AS LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

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THIS IS SO, THERE CAN BE NO PEACE. NEITHER CAN THERE BE THE GENERAL ELECTIONS FOR WHICH EVERYONE HAS HOPED AS LONG AS THE NORTH VIETNAMESE COMMUNISTS CONTINUE TO INFILTRATE SOLDIERS AND ARMS INTO THE RVN. AS FOR THE VC, PRESIDENT THIEU SAID THAT QUOTE THE SO-CALLED LIBERATION FRONT IS NOTHING BUT THE LACKEY OF THE NORTH VIETNAMESE COMMUNISTS. THEY DO ONLY WHAT THE COMMUNISTS ORDER, SAY ONLY WHAT THE NORTH VIETNAMESE COMMUNISTS LET THEM SAY. UNQUOTE. THE PRESIDENT URGED PEOPLE TO

SEE CLEARLY THE PRESENT STATE OF AFFAIRS IN THE NATION, NOT TO LISTEN TO THE IDEAS OF JUST ANYONE, AND NOT TO BELIEVE IN ANY POLITICAL SOLUTION. HE TOLD HIS LISTENERS THAT QUOTE ON THE CONTRARY, WE MUST LOOK AFTER OURSELVES AND PROVIDE FOR OUR OWN PROTECTION. UNQUOTE. HE STATED THAT PEOPLE AND ARMED FORCES MUST BE READY AT ANY TIME TO CRUSH A COMMUNIST GENERAL OFFENSIVE, WHICH HE ADDED, HAS ALREADY STARTED. HE WARNED THAT THE RVN CANNOT SIT PEACEFULLY BY WHILE THE COMMUNISTS ARE CONTINUALLY PREOCCUPIED WITH OF USE OF ARMED FORCE TO OCCUPY THE COUNTRY. HE SAID THAT PEOPLE AND ARMY MUST QUOTE DO EVERYTHING IN OUR POWER TO PUNISH THE COMMUNISTS SEVERELY. WE MUST NOT LEAVE THEIR MILITARY AREAS SAFE FOR THEM TO USE AS POINTS FROM WHICH TO SEND THEIR SOLDIERS OUT TO DESTROY US. UNQUOTE. ACCORDING TO THE PRESIDENT, THE INVADERS ACTIONS MUST BE ANSWERED WITH APPROPRIATE MILITARY MEASURES. IF NOT, THE LIVES OF MILITARY AND CIVILIANE IN THE RVN WILL ALL BE SACRIFICED UNJUSTLY. (COMMENT: WE TOOK THIEU'S REMARKS FROM PARAPHRASES ON VIETNAMESE TELEVISION. WE FEEL, HOWEVER, THAT THE COMPILER STUCK CLOSELY TO THE PRESIDENT'S ACTUAL WORDING, AND WE HAVE, THEREFORE, NOT HESITATED TO USE QUOTES WHEN WE THOUGHT SUCH USE WOULD BETTER CONVEY THE MEANING.)

5. PRESIDENT THIEU ENDED THE PUBLIC CEREMONIES BY RAISING THE CHECKERED FLAG TO BEGIN THE BICYCLE RACE. JUST BEFOREHAND, TO THE CROWD'S DELIGHT, HE COMMANDEERED ONE OF THE BICYCLES AND TOOK A SHORT RIDE, FOLLOWED CLOSE BEHIND BY A PANTING LIEUTENANT GENERAL.

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